

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's continued thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 1, 14 and 26 have been amended to more particularly recite applicant's invention. Applicant believes that the amendments to those claims makes explicit that which applicant believed to be already implicit and, accordingly, were not made to narrow the scope of protection for statutory purposes.

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 26 to positively recite the terms "database," a "database facility," a "transmitting facility," and a "communication establishing facility." Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 26 overcomes the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 1-2, 4 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adamson ("Adamson," U.S. Patent No. 5,717,863), in view of Klug ("Klug," U.S. Patent No. 6,823,327) in further view of Net2Phone ("Net2Phone," <http://web.archive.org/web/20000301065632/www.net2phone.com/default.htm>).

Moreover, claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adamson in view of Klug in further view of Net2Phone and in further view of H. Oden ("Oden," U.S. Patent No. 3,510,594). Also, claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adamson, Klug, Net2Phone and Oden as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Gainsboro ("Gainsboro," U.S. Patent No. 5,926,533). Claims 14-18, 21, 23-24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adamson in view of Klug and further in view of Net2Phone. Furthermore, claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adamson in view of Klug in further view of Net2Phone. Finally, claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adamson, Klug, Net2Phone and Oden as applied to claim 19, and further in view of Gainsboro.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant's claim 1, as amended, defines a method for providing a call connection service

between two parties: a “first party” and a “second party.” The first party requests that a system connected to a telecommunications network issue a “web business card.” The web business card includes information about the first party, including “one or more phone numbers” of the first party. Further, the web business card includes “one or more call buttons” that correspond to phone number(s) of the first party. The web business card also includes “uniform resource locator (URL) information of the system.” The system defined in applicant’s claim 1 transmits the web business card to one or more “e-mail addresses designated by the first party[.]”

Thereafter, the second party (i.e., one of the e-mail recipients) receives the web business card of the first party and is provided with a “phone number inputting window” when the second party “opens” the received business card. That window provides “[access] to the system[.]” Thus, the second party accesses the system once the second party opens the received web business card.

The second party further selects one of the call buttons included in the received web business card and requests the system to “make a call connection between the first party and the second party” as a function of the “second party’s phone number entered in the phone number inputting window[.]” The system searches a database for the “first party’s phone number corresponding to the...call button” selected by the second party and dials the “first party’s phone number and the second party’s phone number to make a call connection.” Applicant’s other independent claims, namely 14 and 26, include similar features. Adamson, Klug and Net2Phone do not teach or suggest this combination of features, either taken alone or in combination.

Adamson describes a PC conferencing system, and a method and apparatus for managing PC conference connection addresses. Although Adamson describes features that are similar to some of those defined in applicant’s claim 1, such as an ability to define electronic business cards using a computer, there are patentable distinctions between the combination of features defined in applicant’s amended independent claims 1, 14 and 26 and those taught or suggested in Adamson. Furthermore, Klug and Net2Phone do not supply elements of applicant’s claims 1, 14 and 26 that are missing from the teachings of Adamson.

In particular, Adamson’s system does not enable a recipient (e.g., applicant’s “second party”) of a web business card to access a system by opening the card in order to submit information to the system representing the recipient for contacting the party that sent the web

business card (e.g., applicant's "first party"). In other words, no phone number inputting window, as defined in applicant's claim 1, is taught or suggested by Adamson in which the second party (the recipient of the first party's web business card) opens a web business card, accesses a system and submits the second party's telephone number, and, thereafter selects a control (i.e., the call button) to request a connection between the second party and the first party.

Instead, the sender of a bizcard in Adamson defines the information, including the recipient's (i.e., the callee's) name, connection number and connection type, that is used for communication between the recipient and the sender. In applicant's claim 1, in contrast, the second party (i.e., a recipient) enters the second party's telephone number in the phone number inputting window.

Further and unlike applicant's claim 1, in Adamson the sender of a bizcard controls who will communicate with the sender. In applicant's claim 1, in contrast, the first party (i.e., the sender of the web business card) does not control who will communicate with the first card. Instead and unlike Adamson, the first party may send web business cards to five hundred e-mail recipients (second parties), and any one or more of those recipients will communicate with the first party. The first party does not know who that communication will be with, nor does the first party know when the communication will take place. In Adamson, in contrast, the sender of the bizcard defines who communicates, and when the communication occurs.

In particular, applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that Adamson teaches at column 1, lines 21-33 applicant's claimed phone number inputting window when a second client computer opens the business card and accesses the system. This cited portion of Adamson refers, instead, to pre-entered callees' names and addresses that are collected from prior conferences, such as ordered by "last dialed." In other words, a caller reviews potential "callees" (column 1, line 23), and selects one. In applicant's claim 1, the second party responds to a single web business card and requests communication. Further, no call buttons are taught by Adamson that enable the second party to contact the first party using the first party's telephone number and the second party's telephone number.

The Examiner recognizes that Adamson fails to provide a web page to create the business cards, that the first party provides their phone numbers as their means of communication, providing a URL on the business cards as a means to connect the system, and the first party

transmitting the business cards to other parties by e-mail. Accordingly, the Examiner cites to Klug for teaching “dispersing data by logging onto a web site and having the web site disperse the information inputted by a first party.” The Examiner concludes it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art using the teachings of Klug that “other means of inputting the destination input other than a web site address, such as e-mail” could be used. Furthermore, the Examiner recognizes that the combination of Adamson and Klug fail to teach PC to phone communication and, accordingly, cites to Net2Phone for teaching phone to PC communication.” The Examiner concludes, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the teachings of Net2Phone with Adamson and Klug to implement other means of communication over the Internet such as PC to phone and that using a user’s telephone number on a business card as a means of communicating would have been obvious. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant submits that even if one were to combine the teachings of Adamson, Klug and Net2Phone references, as the Examiner has done, applicant’s invention as defined in claims 1, 14 and 26 still would not be taught because elements of those claims are missing from the combination of those references. For example, neither Adamson, Klug or Net2Phone, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest applicant’s claimed web business card that, when opened by a second party, enables the second party to access a system to submit telephone information. Further, neither Adamson, Klug nor Net2Phone, either taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest searching from a database the first party’s phone number that corresponds to a call button selected by the second party, and dialing the first party’s phone number and the second party’s phone number to make a call connection between the two parties.

Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submit that the combination of Adamson, Klug and Net2Phone do not teach or suggest all of the elements taught by applicant’s claim 1 and, therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of references.

Claims 2, 4 and 8-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the claim(s) from which they depend, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the applied three references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the noted features recited in independent claims 1, 14, and 26 as amended. The dependent claims are allowable over the applied reference on their own merits and for at least the reasons as argued above with respect to independent claims 1, 14 and 26.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of record distinguish over the prior art for the reasons noted above. This is of course true with respect to the independent claims and certainly and more forcefully with respect to their dependent claims.

Moreover, neither Oden nor Gainsboro supply the elements of applicant's claims 1, 14 or 26 that are missing from the combined teachings of Adamson, Klug and Net2Phone.

Furthermore, applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that Net2Phone qualifies as prior art because it is unclear the date when the Net2Phone web site disclosed an on-line system that allows a user to make PC to telephone communication.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on March 15, 2007:

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Respectfully submitted,

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